

Texas Tech University – Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering

YOUNG GUNS BYLAWS

MISSION STATEMENT:

Young Guns' mission is to provide a vehicle for recent engineering alumni of the Whitacre College of Engineering to compile industry feedback for the dean, to encourage involvement by giving back time and resources to the college, and to serve as a resource for networking and professional development.

PURPOSES:

- I. Provide industry feedback to the dean by engaging the alumni population to discover academic programs' strengths and areas of improvement.
- II. Give back time and resources to the Whitacre College of Engineering and support current and future Texas Tech Engineering students.
- III. Provide a platform to give members the opportunity to develop their careers and maintain professional competency.
- IV. Enhance the image and industry perception of Texas Tech University and its engineering alumni by engaging in service programs and participating in industry events.
- V. Provide social interaction and networking opportunities that increase alumni participation in college-related activities and endeavors while maintaining the integrity of the organization.

MEMBERSHIP:

General Young Guns Membership: Young Guns is an organization for Texas Tech engineering alumni who have received an engineering degree from Texas Tech University within the past 15 years. General membership in Young Guns is free of charge. Engineering alumni who have graduated more than 15 years prior may participate in ways such as attending events and serving on committees as needed. Those who are within 15 calendar years of graduation at the time of election to the Board or Executive Committee may serve out the full elected term with all rights and privileges of Young Guns membership. Young Guns will strive for diversity in all respects in its membership.

Board Membership: There shall be a maximum number of 40 Board members. Board members shall meet the General Membership criteria, start their Board term while still within 15 calendar years of receiving an engineering degree from Texas Tech, and are strongly encouraged to become current members of the Engineering Key Society. All Board members shall vote or register abstention on all motions brought before the Board.

Executive Committee Membership: There shall be a graduate of each Whitacre College of Engineering department on the Executive Committee. All Executive Committee members shall meet the General Membership criteria, start their Executive Committee term while still within 15 calendar years of receiving an engineering degree from Texas Tech, and are strongly encouraged to become current members of the Engineering Key Society. Members of the Executive Committee should be actively involved in the organization, serving as an officer, serving as a committee chair, or providing significant support in another capacity. Additionally, Executive Committee members are expected to attend and participate in the Fall and Spring Dean's Council meetings in Lubbock.

Committee chairs shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Committee chairs must be members in good standing of the Young Guns Board or Executive Committee.

VOTING: In general, there shall be one vote per member of the voting entity, and decisions will be made by majority vote of those in attendance and those who vote via electronic means if applicable. The chair protects impartiality by exercising voting rights on motions only when his or her vote would affect the outcome. The chair shall vote during elections. All votes may be subject to ratification by the dean's office or designated representative. Votes cast via written electronic means (e-mail, text, etc.) are allowed. Quorum is considered majority of the voting membership.

ELECTION OF BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Nominees for Board membership are proposed by a Nominating Committee consisting of the current Executive Committee and the dean's office or designated representative and elected by the Board. The dean's office or designated representative must ratify all nominees prior to the slate of nominees being presented to the Board. A slate of nominees shall be provided to the Board as often as needed as determined by the Executive Committee, but not less often than annually.

Nominees for the Executive Committee shall be existing Board members who have been in good standing for at least one year. Nominees for Executive Committee membership are proposed by a Nominating Committee consisting of the current Executive Committee and the dean's office or designated representative and elected by the Board. The dean's office or designated representative must ratify all nominees prior to the slate of nominees being presented to the Board. A slate of nominees shall be selected by the Executive Committee annually.

OFFICERS: Officer positions shall be filled by members duly elected to the Executive Committee. The Young Guns officers are: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Within 60 days of the annual election of Executive Committee members, a slate of officer nominees from among that group shall be presented to the Executive Committee for a vote. The regular term for an elected officer position shall be one full fiscal year. Ideally officers would consist of Executive Committee members that have prior experience of one year on the Executive Committee and first year Executive Committee members will chair a committee or lead a group of committees. The dean's office or designated representative must ratify all nominees prior to the slate of nominees being presented to the Board.

TERMS: Regular terms of Board members and Executive Committee members shall be two years and shall commence at the beginning of Texas Tech University's fiscal year (September 1). Ideally, the terms of members shall be staggered so that the terms of no more than one-half of the Executive Committee membership expire at any one time. Board members may serve consecutive terms. Executive Committee members shall not serve consecutive terms, but are allowed to be re-nominated for Board election.

Board members, Executive Committee members and officers may resign with notice to the Young Guns secretary or the dean's office or designated representative. Members may be removed for nonparticipation if so voted by the members of the Executive Committee and ratified by the dean's office or designated representative. Executive Committee and officer vacancies created by resignation, withdrawal of membership, or death should be filled at the next Board meeting following the event, or sooner via electronic vote if deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

MEETINGS: Regular meetings of the Board shall occur two times per year, as determined by members of the Executive Committee. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall occur two times per year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring to coincide with the Dean's Council Spring and Fall meetings. Special meetings of the Board or the Executive Committee may be called by members of the Executive Committee.

Committee meetings may be called as needed.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Each member of the Young Guns Board and Executive Committee is strongly encouraged to become a current member of the Engineering Key Society. The Executive Committee and dean's office or designated representative) will jointly determine the use of funds designated specifically for Young Guns, and a report will be presented to the full Board at each biannual meeting. Alumni who have received a recent degree from the Whitacre College of Engineering are also eligible to take advantage of a reduced gifting amount opportunity for membership in the Engineering Key Society. (Refer to Engineering Key Society brochure for current Key Society membership requirements.)

EXCEPTIONS AND AMENDMENTS: Exceptions (one time waivers) to the bylaws require a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. Amendments (permanent changes) to the bylaws require a two-thirds vote of the Board. The dean's office or designated representative must ratify all exceptions and amendments prior to adoption.

Approved [January 15, 2014]